

Top 5 Election Priorities for the Sunshine Coast

With local government elections in March 2024 and the Queensland State Government election in October 2024, this is an important time for Sunshine Coast Business Council (SCBC) to remind our political leaders of the importance of delivering for the region of the Sunshine Coast.

State Government Priority #1

Unlock economic activity by making necessary amendments to the Planning Act 2016 that will drive amendments to regional planning schemes to expedite regional approval processes and support the implementation of *Shaping SEQ 2023* and the State's broader housing supply and diversity outcomes.

Local Council Priority #1

Unlock economic activity by ensuring current and future planning schemes appropriately enable regional strategies by being clear on:

- Empowering the key principles of Regional Economic Development Strategies within the Planning Scheme codes.
- Identifying and re-zoning new land for business, industry and entertainment to help with business attraction and formation.
- Identifying areas suitable for density uplift including 'missing middle' housing typologies.
- Expansion areas – land within the urban footprint that remains underdeveloped despite being identified for urban development.
- Identifying key precincts to be redefined/reshaped to improve character, liveability, land use and help the local economy to grow.

State Government Priority #2

Recommit, prioritise and deliver 2 promised transport projects before 2032:

- Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line between Brisbane and Sunshine Coast, terminating in Maroochydore City Centre;
- Stage 1 Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade; and
- Lobby Federal Government to increase their existing committed funding to ensure the infrastructure is delivered before 2032.

Local Council Priority #2

SCC and Noosa Council to join with industry groups to lobby Federal and State governments to immediately fund the delivery of – Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line terminating in Maroochydore City Centre and Stage 1 of Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade.

State Government Priority #3

Work with Federal Government and industry groups to address the causes of the significant decline in apprentices across all trades and introduces strategies to address in the short, medium, and long term.

Local Council Priority #3

Join with private sector and industry groups to lobby State and Federal governments to immediately provide stronger incentives to encourage businesses to offer apprenticeships for the duration of apprentice training.

State Government Priority #4

Reduce development fees, taxes and charges to boost economic activity, create jobs and deliver the infrastructure, particularly housing, so urgently required.

Local Council Priority #4

Reduce costs to businesses and investors by cutting red and green tape, reducing council charges and simplifying planning & approval processes.

State Government Priority #5

Work with councils and regional industry/business/communities to agree regional infrastructure priorities and funding requirements and together lobby Federal government for funding if required.

Local Council Priority #5

SCC and Noosa councils to work with industry/business/communities to agree regional infrastructure priorities and together lobby Federal and State governments to argue the case for funding and/or potential investment models.

SCBC motto is "One Vision ... One Voice" and we believe it is critical that the Region remains united in creating a healthy, diverse and sustainable Sunshine Coast economy with jobs and investment to support a projected population of over 500,000 by 2041. For further information please visit the Sunshine Coast Business Council web site www.scbusinesscouncil.com.au.